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The term *rap* is frequently used to mean *hip-hop,* but the second term includes more than just music. Hip-hop is part of a modern urban lifestyle. The term is used to describe a culture with both visual and audio elements, such as clothing, rapping, disc jockeying, break dancing, language, and graffiti. Hip-hop music often is more melodic than pure rap.

The biggest inspiration for rap came from disc jockeys in Jamaica, who would *toast* (talk) over recorded music they played in clubs. The style, known as *dub,* produced popular records that featured disc jockeys talking over instrumental backgrounds and electronic effects. The disc jockey used records on two turntables, switching rapidly between them to mix and match beats. This style was introduced into New York City clubs and became a part of the music more regularly heard in the clubs.